

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicants claim the right of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) - (d) based on patent application No. 00204248.9, filed November 29, 2000, in the European Patent Office; additionally, Applicants claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) based on prior-filed, copending provisional application No. 60/251,051, filed December 5, 2000, in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; the contents of both of which are relied upon and incorporated herein by reference.--

Page 1, line 12 change "State of the art" to --Description of the Related Art--.

Delete Page 34 in its entirety. Add a new Page 34 after the claims, adding the following ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE. A new, separate Page 34 including the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE is enclosed.

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for manufacturing a belt structure of a vehicle tire includes the steps of preparing a belt assembly, cutting the belt assembly to obtain first and second substantially-continuous belt strips, supplying the first and second belt strips to at least one assembly drum, and superposing on the at least one assembly drum portions of the first and second belt strips to obtain a belt structure comprising radially-superposed portions of the first and second belt strips. An apparatus for manufacturing the belt structure includes a first device for cutting a sheet of rubber-coated fabric to obtain a plurality of strips, a device for splicing the strips to form a belt

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